



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Second Quarter, 2008

Whole No. 167

## President's Report

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## New Discovery at the National Postal Museum

Our member Federico Brid visited the National Postal Museum and met with Christine Hill the Museum Technician who works with the Arago online research tool at [www.arago.si.edu](http://www.arago.si.edu). He then spent two hours looking through the "SUPERB" three-volume 1906 Hamilton Banknote Company Collection.

One major surprise was finding a two hundred subject with gutter in the middle of the red color of the 1/2 cent stamp indicating that they were printed from 200 subject plates. Although this stamp was not overprinted for the Canal Zone, it had previously been believed that all of the stamps in this series were printed from 100 subject plates.

Federico says that the NPM is dedicated to photographing and  
*continued page 20*

## Five Rejected Designs of the 25th Anniversary Issue Are Found

By Tom Brougham

The evolution of the 25th Anniversary set, Scott Nos. 120 to 135, is well known from official correspondence. Both *Canal Zone Stamps* by Plass, Brewster and Salz and *Canal Zone Postage Stamps* by Tatelman devote several pages to President Franklin Roosevelt's pivotal role in starting the process and the subsequent decisions made by subordinates to implement his vision.

Five models prepared by William A. Roach have been found recently, all containing designs not used in the final issued set. From the contemporary correspondence quoted in the above sources, we knew that several approaches were under serious consideration. These models now show in graphic form three distinct alternatives that did not get chosen.

The first two models are dated November 16, 1938. The mounted composite photos (Figs. 1 and 2) show two views of "Culebra Cut" in a spare and bold manner. The front of the first one (with penciled "A" in the upper left) and the back of the second one are shown in Fig. 3. It is interesting to note that the two views used are not any of the views actually used later in the issued set. I had always vaguely assumed that President Roosevelt was shown sixteen photos and that those were turned into stamps, or at least that the sorting down was done prior to sending the photos to Washington. But apparently there were more photographs available to the BEP and sixteen were eventually chosen from among them.



Fig. 1

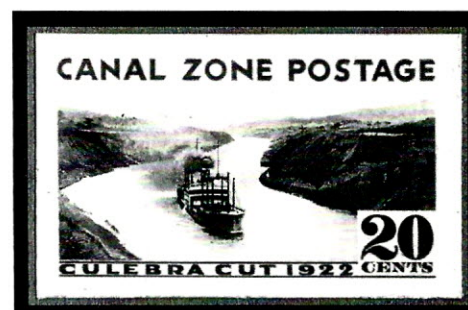


Fig. 2

*continued on page 17*

Meeting  
~Announcement~

**APS StampShow**

Hartford, CT

10 AM

Saturday,

August 16th, 2008

CZSG Contact: Alan Bentz

BHS44@comcast.net

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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**~REMINDER~**

The correct address for  
ordering publications is:

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**Metro Chapter Meeting at NOJEX**

The CZSG Metro Chapter hosted its second annual regional CZSG meeting at the NOJEX Show in Secaucus, New Jersey on May 24, 2008. Nine CZSG members and one "prospective" member attended the meeting as shown in the accompanying photo. Mike Demski worked with the NOJEX organizers in arranging the meeting, which was chaired by Chapter Secretary, George Campbell. A souvenir picture post card invitation, featuring the famous "Kiss of the Oceans" illustration, had been sent to all metro area CZSG members, through the courtesy of Elliot Coleman. That undoubtedly contributed to the nearly 50 per cent increase in attendance over last year's meeting.

The meeting was conducted informally, beginning with attendees introducing themselves and describing their collecting interests. This led to a lively back-and-forth discussion, which occupied most of the meeting. Other topics included upcoming CZSG events, such as this year's Mail Sale, as well as manuscripts that are "in the pipeline" for publication as CZSG Handbooks. The group also discussed proposed activities for the Metro Chapter, including the possibility of sponsoring competitive CZSG exhibits at a future NOJEX Show. The CZSG Metro Chapter has been meeting quarterly to share collecting experiences and to plan for future events. Any CZSG member interested in joining the Chapter is invited to contact either Mike Demski (Kearney511@aol.com) or George Campbell (campgs@optonline.net).

George Campbell



**Photo caption: Attendees at NOJEX CZSG Meeting. Front Row: Vince Russo, Mike Demski, Elliot Coleman, Joe Murphy. Back Row: Rob Loeffler, Stan Polchinski, George Campbell, Bob Hubsmith, Joe Napp, Joe Chervenyak**

**CZSG Northeast Section Meeting, Boxboro, MA**

The Northeast Section of the CZSG met for the 12th time in Boxboro on May 10, 2008. Attendance was a bit sparse because of the gasoline crisis and loss of some members. Six people showed up at the meeting room as seen below. Three of them were at the first meeting in 1997: George McHugh (initiator of Boxboro meetings), Alan Bentz and Armand Coté. Also present were Mike Drabik, Elliot Coleman and a new attendee, Joe Chervenyak.

Armand gave a Power Point presentation on FAM 5 Inaugural Flights based on his 2007 THAMESPEX exhibit, which won a Vermeil and the APE Award of Honor. He showed material collected over more than 20 years, with some rare post office cancellations, destinations and SCADTA covers. Mike Drabik's presence was essential to interface the laptop and projector for the talk. Armand stayed over to repeat the presentation at the Metropolitan Air Post Society meeting that followed.



**Attendees (l-r): Alan Bentz, George McHugh, Mike Drabik, Armand Coté, Elliot Coleman and Joe Chervenyak.**



## Editorial

**Richard D. Bates, Jr., Editor**  
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With this volume the Editorship of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* has changed. I am now serving as Editor and Richard Spielberg as Associate Editor.

The CZSG members and all other readers owe a rousing thank you to Richard Spielberg for the tremendous job he has done as Editor for the past 10+ years.

Material should be sent to either person, as described in the first column on page 14. We continue to look for good quality articles on subjects that will be of interest to our readers, especially the collecting and study of philately and postal history of the Canal Zone and the Isthmus of Panama, including relevant aspects of interoceanic transport and communications, as stated in the CZSG bylaws. We welcome your suggestions regarding information or articles you would like to see published in the *CZP*, and are especially interested if you have an interest in writing one. We are happy to preview a possible article topic, and to offer suggestions as to how to prepare the submission. We also can help with preparation of illustrations.

If you have an unusual item or something that seems a little odd, we would love to see a copy of the item to determine if it might be something to include in a future issue of the *CZP*. Scans are preferable to photocopies and, as we are contemplating going to color in the *Philatelist* and Handbooks in the near future, a color scan is most useful.

I will try to let those who submit material know that it has been received, and to give a quick turn around on letting the submitter know if we will publish it, and when that is likely to be. But it may take some time, particularly if it is something about which I know less, as I may seek advice of others I feel are more expert than I. Please understand that the Study Group does not promise to publish everything received, though I

do hope to work with authors to take articles on appropriate subjects into a form that works in the *CZP*.

I hope to include in each issue something for everyone, aiming to have at least one stamp-related item, something postal history-related, and something of historical interest. The ability to do so, however, strongly depends on the readers of this publication, as it is they who need to submit articles, or at least material for articles.

We both hope to continue to make the *CZP* a fine publication, consistent with our bylaws, and of high interest to all our readers, both members and non-members. But with dues only eight dollars a year, I hope anyone would be willing to join as a member.



**James T. DeVoss**

Colonel James T. DeVoss (U.S. Army, Ret.), 92, died at his home in State College, Pennsylvania, on April 8, 2008. Though well known for his philatelic writing, exhibiting, and judging, DeVoss is best known in the philatelic community for his service as Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society from 1963 to 1981, when APS membership mushroomed from 13,000 to nearly 50,000 members. But in the Canal Zone Study Group, Jim DeVoss occupied a special place. He was named one of only two "Honorary Members" of the CZSG for his work on its behalf and in organizing the original Canal Zone group in 1951-52 (see *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, First Quarter, 1981, page 8).

DeVoss was born in Ocheyedan, Iowa, on March 22, 1916. He was educated there and at the Universities

of Iowa and Maryland, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. On October 10, 1938, while employed by the circulation department of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, he married Dorothy A. Durr of Williamsburg, Iowa.

Commissioned in the Infantry in 1937, DeVoss joined the U.S. Army in 1940, and served most of his distinguished career as a staff officer in military intelligence and security. He spent the two and a half years immediately following Pearl Harbor in the Canal Zone, a region that would later become the philatelic focus for much of his collecting. He also served in Hawaii, Austria and France. Following World War II, he was a member of the staff of Supreme Allied Commanders Europe, in Paris. Honored for "outstanding services" with the Legion of Merit in 1958, he came to Washington to work for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and retired from the Pentagon as a colonel in 1961.

DeVoss began collecting when he was 10, with an interest in the United States and Central America, and took his lifelong fascination with stamps everywhere he served. For example, he was stamp editor for the *Honolulu Advertiser* during his two years' of military duty in Hawaii. He began specializing in Canal Zone stamps and early Isthmus of Panama postal history in the late 1940s, and in 1951-52 helped form the Canal Zone Study Circle. The *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* adopted a completely revised Canal Zone section submitted by a committee of collectors chaired by DeVoss.

DeVoss skillfully built a "Via Panama" postal history collection that won the Champion of Champions Award at Balpex (1969), Large Golds at international shows in London (1970), Brussels (1972), and Munich (1973), and Prix d'Honneur at Stockholm (1974), Interphil in Philadelphia (1976) and Toronto (1978). He published the exhibit in 1978, and it was dispersed in a two-day auction by Sotheby Parke Bernet later that year. At the same time, his collection of Canal Zone stamps was said to have been the first to include all of the great varieties, including two unique items and many others of which fewer than 10 examples were known.

DeVoss joined the American

*continued on page 19*



# Unofficially Flown: the Van Auken Los Angeles Mail by Cheryl Ganz and Allen Klein

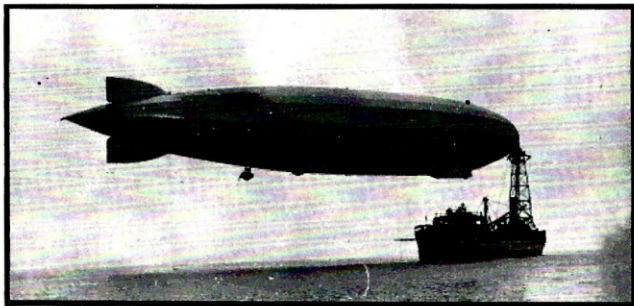


Fig. 1 The USS Los Angeles moored to the USS Patoka in Balboa Harbor, Panama, on February 19, 1931, ready for participation in naval maneuvers. During this time, Senior Patrol Officer Van Auken gave personal letters to LA officers, requesting that they be flown on board the airship to Lakehurst and then posted in the regular mails.

While stationed in Panama, Wilbur Rice Van Auken, US Navy Senior Patrol Officer, sent unofficial mail via the airship Los Angeles back to the United States for family and friends. He asked fellow naval officers to carry the mail on board and post it on their return to Lakehurst. As the contents indicate, Van Auken knew these envelopes would be of special interest and he asked his family to save them for him. The letters also indicate that he sent more than those transcribed here. They are all shown with covers. (Note that brackets are used for comments or when we could not decipher a word.) He also had covers carried on the USS Shenandoah from San Diego in 1924.

Capt. Van Auken, a stamp collector, served forty years in the US Navy and died at 71 in 1953. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1903. His commands included the USS Putnam, USS Aroostook, and USS Vestal. A pioneer in naval aviation, Van Auken helped plan the non-stop flight from San Francisco to Hawaii in 1925 and then led the efforts that resulted in the rescue of the fliers nine days after they crashed in the Pacific. During World War I, Van Auken had met the future President Franklin D. Roosevelt, then an assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the two collectors traded stamps.

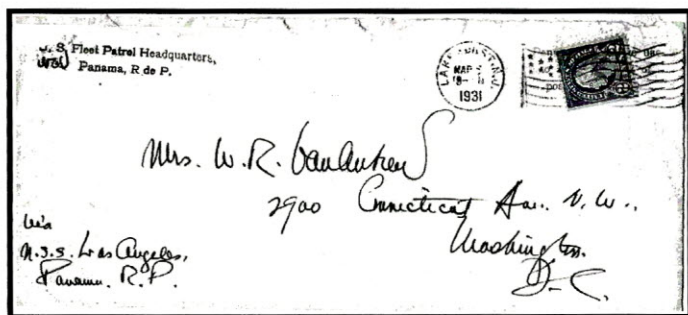


Fig. 2 Cover postmarked March 6, 1931, flown on board the Los Angeles from Panama to Lakehurst.

Letter included in cover illustrated in Fig. 2.

Thursday eve 12 Feb 31

[on letterhead:] United States Fleet, Patrol Headquarters,  
Panama, R. de P.

Darling Mommy: I want you to keep this. I'll give this letter to Captain Clarke of the "Los Angeles" to mail when he arrives at Lakehurst. It will therefore sail on the "L.A." from Panama about 14 Feb. up the Coast to see the U.S. Fleet "war" there. Over Central America to Guantanamo, Cuba and thence to Lakehurst, N.J. You'll get this letter about 26 February. But it will be a rare letter I hope [the word sweat is circled to denote a space where a drop fell on the paper] postmarked "L.A." today. I radioed you to lease house and sent you lease. Isn't it fine? It is hot as can be here.

With love and kisses,  
Daddy

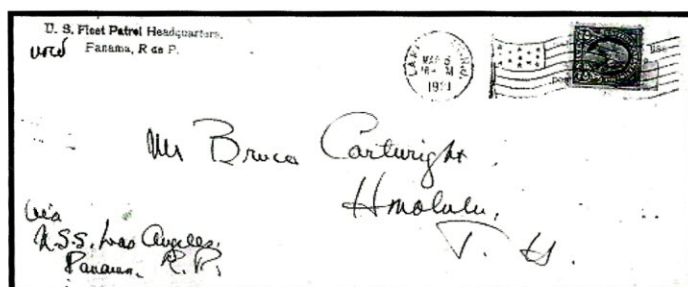


Fig. 3 Cover postmarked March 6, 1931, flown on board the Los Angeles from Panama to Lakehurst.

Letter included in cover illustrated in Fig. 3.

12 Feb 1931

[on letterhead:] United States Fleet, Patrol Headquarters,  
Panama, R. de P.

Dear Bruce:

I'm Senior Patrol Officer here with Fleet. Am giving this to the Captain of the dirigible "Los Angeles" to carry back to Guantanamo, Cuba then to Lakehurst, where it will be mailed. I hope you get it. I think of Elise and yourself many times. Wish I were with you now. Am in Command USS Vestal but go to duty in June in Staff Naval War College, Newport.

Write me.

Best

Van

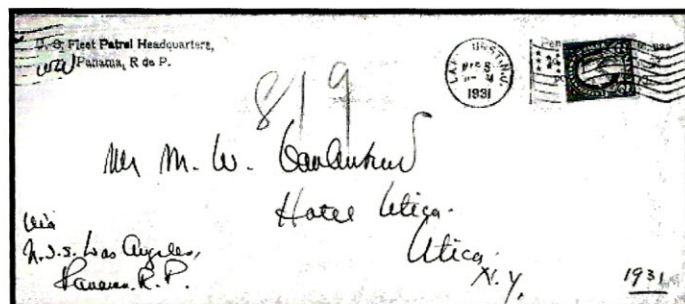


Fig. 4 Cover postmarked March 6, 1931, flown on board the Los Angeles from Panama to Lakehurst.



Letter included in cover illustrated in Fig. 4.

12 Feb 1931

[on letterhead:] United States Fleet, Patrol Headquarters,  
Panama, R. de P.

Dear father: You are the only one in Utica to get a letter from Panama via the "Los Angeles." She's now moored to the "Pataka" here. She will witness the Fleet maneuvers next week. After that, she will sail over Central America to Guantanamo, Cuba, moor there and proceed to Lakehurst. It will be a memorable trip. Her Captain was a pupil of mine at Naval Academy in 1913.<sup>1</sup> I believe Secretary Ingalls and a number of ranking officials will be in her at maneuvers.<sup>2</sup> I hope it reaches you ok and be added to my collection of odd letters. I enjoy my duty - am getting lots of experience and gaining [?]. I am ordered to the Staff N War College. I am very pleased and happy. Called on Governor Burgess today in the same room occupied by Col. Goethals during the building of the Panama Canal also a Capt. [?-lward] Marine Superintendent nephew of Clark Howell the Atlanta editor!<sup>3</sup> I enjoy my work. My CO. My independence and all. Am perspiring like a June Bug. Have nice quarters. Well Pop, I hope you feel better and are comfortable. I can't imagine snow and ice.

With love and best wishes

Your son

Wilbur

Reproduced in part with permission from Zeppelin Collector, 2007.

For further reading:

William F. Althoff, *USS Los Angeles: The Navy's Venerable Airship and Aviation Technology* (Washington DC: Brassey's, 2004).

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Lt. Cdr. Vincent A. Clarke, Jr., was commander of the *Los Angeles* at this time.

<sup>2</sup> David Sinton Ingalls was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aviation.

<sup>3</sup> President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Army Lt. George Goethals as the third Panama Canal Chief Engineer. Clark Howell was the editor and publisher of the newspaper *Atlanta Constitution*.

## APS StampShow – August 2008

Our Vice-President, Alan Benz, will chair our meeting at the APS StampShow which will be held August 14-17, 2008 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut. As usual there is no charge to attend this wonderful annual event and we hope that many of you will take the opportunity to come to our meeting, visit the many dealers, view the exhibits, and sit in on some of the many excellent presentations.

For the first time the APS will have a booth with its circuit books available for visitors to look through and purchase items. Contact Tom Horn at their Sales Division for more information.

David Zemer

continued from page 13

## Five Rejected Designs of the 25th Anniversary Issue Are Found

(text continued on page 18)

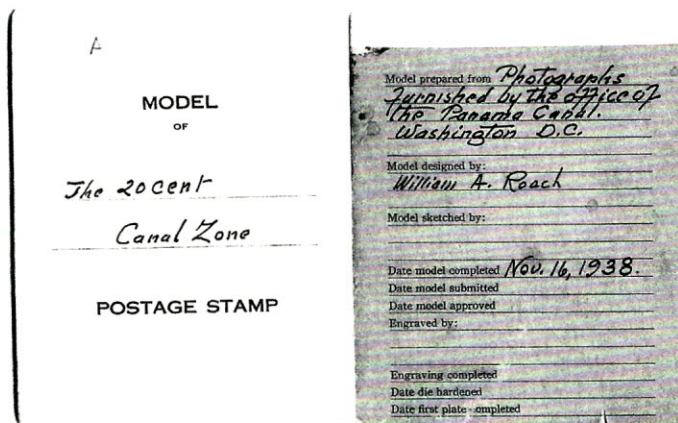


Fig. 3

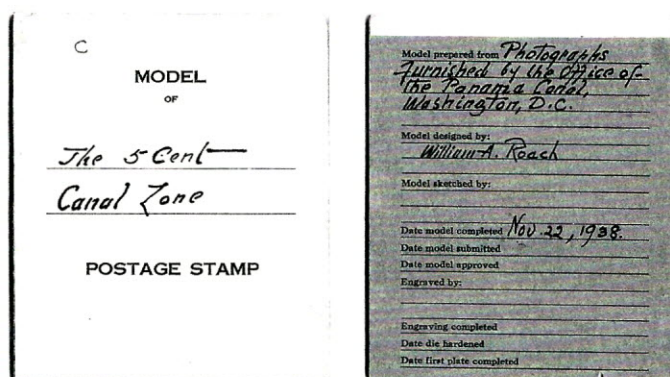


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

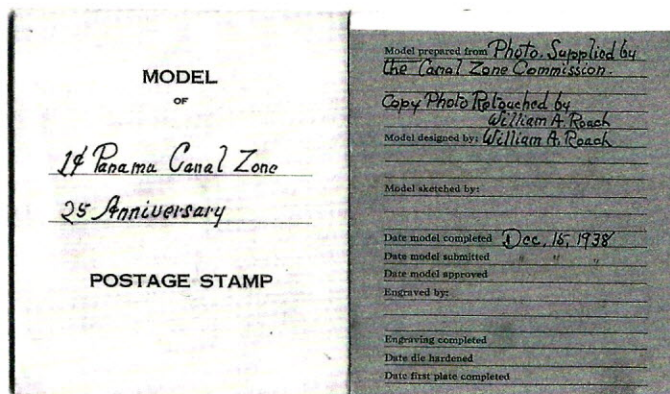


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



The first design shows in the foreground a steam shovel loading dirt on a train stretching into the distance. In a view more similar to the one actually later used on the 5¢ stamp, the second shows a ship passing through the Cut. Both designs use 20 cents as the denomination. The captioning on these two differs fundamentally from the final issued stamps. There is no mention of 25th Anniversary or Panama Canal. Instead, the first has only "CULEBRA CUT 1911" and the second has "CULEBRA CUT 1922." The second design in particular seems much more open and modern than the issued set.

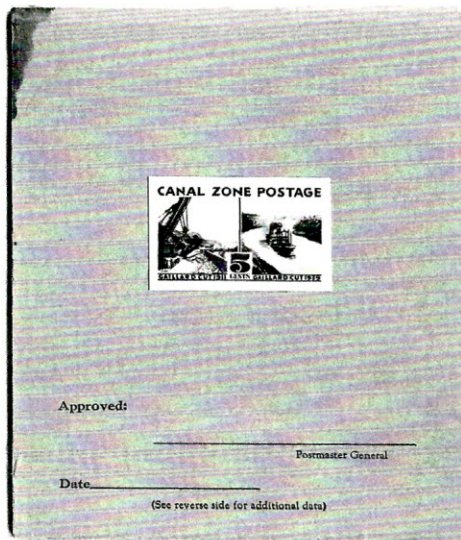


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Early on it was proposed to have both before and after views on the same stamp. This would have cut the number of issues down to eight, closer to the number of different denominations the Canal Zone actually used on a regular basis. The BEP initially discouraged the two-views approach but later changed its opinion. The third model, dated November 22, 1938, shows what the set would have looked like with two views on each stamp. Figures 4 and 5 show its front and back covers. Figure 6 shows the inside and Fig. 7 shows a close up of the design. It uses both of the views used in the previous models, now labeled "Gaillard Cut."

The two-views approach was rejected on December 7, 1938 as inconsistent with President Roosevelt's intent. This decision created one of the great challenges of Canal Zone cover collecting. Finding proper non-philatelic uses on cover of all 16 denominations is extremely difficult. Covers bearing the flagrantly unnecessary 7¢, 8¢, 11¢ and 14¢ denominations are almost always at least somewhat philatelic. Most of the few truly non-philatelic uses of these issues would have been on packages and they have not survived well.

The fourth and fifth models, dated December 15, 1938, use the same two views again. Figure 8 shows the front of one and the back of the other. Figures 9 and 10 show the designs. Now the captions have moved toward the issued version. Across the bottom of both is "PANAMA CANAL - 25TH ANNIVERSARY." The scenes are identified in small captions. This time they are worded "GAILLARD CUT - 1911" and "GAILLARD CUT - 1939" respectively. The overall effect is closer to the finally issued stamps. But with fewer words in these designs than in the issued stamps, they still look more open.

## CZSG at WESTPEX 2008

For the first time in the 39 years that the CZSG has met at WESTPEX, Dick Salz was unable to attend due to illness. However when later reached by telephone at home he promised to be there next year. During our conversation he also strongly supported the future use of color in *The Canal Zone Philatelist* and Handbooks.

Jim Cross mentioned that he had volunteered to keep track of the reported Earliest Documented Usage of CZ stamps and Tom Brougham offered a place for an online database in our website. Irwin Gibbs then mentioned that there are some updates on CZ stationery.

Tom is not only our webmaster but also the manager of our 2008 Annual Mail Sale. He mentioned that any material for this year had to be received by him by June 26th. During the summer the Sale Catalogues will be mailed to members of record and uploaded onto our website. The paper version would be in black and white whereas the online version would be in color. He also asked for a volunteer to run the 2009 Mail Sale and promised full technical and moral support to the member or members who would take over this very important function of our organization. Contact Tom or our Editor if you would be interested in helping us.

Tom is also finishing up on his research on the Type III Issues and expects to have it ready for us to publish later this year. For an example of the power of using state of the art computer software and hardware in our hobby, check out his analysis of the Type III overprints that he has loaded onto our website.

The following members were present: Dickson Preston, David Zemer, Allan Harris, Tom Brougham, Russ Samuels, Jim Crumpacker, Jim Cross, Irwin Gibbs, Stephen Banks, Steve Jolly, Gary Weiss, Stanley R. Estabrook, Frederico Brid, Craig Chartrand, and David Leeds.

David Zemer

# Recruit a New CZSG Member



## New Work-up on Scott No. 28

Recently close examination of a stamp in an APS circuit revealed a treasure waiting to be found. What looked like a somewhat off centered example of Scott No. 28 turned out to have something extra that is the delight of a fly-speck seeker like me. In this case, there is an additional block of ink called a work-up in line with the end of word CANAL in the overprint on the stamp shown in Fig. 1, with the area including the CANAL overprint enlarged in Fig. 2. This block of ink is 3.5 mm high by approximately 0.4 mm wide and the leading edge follows almost immediately after the end of the L in CANAL.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

A work-up arises when some of the hardware used to hold the overprint type or slugs in the form used to do the overprinting become elevated and then is inked, allowing it to be "printed" just as the inked type does. The hardware has worked up. The process has been described very nicely in an early article in *CZP* 11:15 (1969) by George Brett. He defines a work-up to be "a piece of spacing material that is unintentionally at the upper surface of a form and has started to print during a press run." The spacing material, of various shapes and sizes, is used to hold the loose type or the individual word slugs in place in the form which is used to overprint the stamps.

Examples of work-ups are known on both Bureau issued overprints of U.S.

stamps, and on overprinted Panama stamps. Several have been reported on the 6th Series, the American Bank Note Issue of 1909. (Scott Nos. 27-30) In fact, a work-up on the same stamp is known (See *CZP* 41:28 (1976) and *Canal Zone Stamps*, page 83, but that one is a work-up (bar) after the ZONE, and is listed as Scott No. 28.4. This one is clearly different, as it comes after the word CANAL.

How many can possibly exist depends on how far into the press run the hardware that worked up took on ink and "printed" with the rest of the overprint, and how soon thereafter it was spotted by the pressman and put back in its proper spot. There could be many examples extant, or there could be very few. But this item illustrates that there still are varieties to be found, even new discoveries to be made.

R. D. Bates

## Letter from Gerald D. Bliss Dated January 25, 1911

Alan Doyle has forwarded the following letter from Gerald D. Bliss, Postmaster, Pedro Miguel. Bliss was a philatelist and member of the A.P.S. He prepared many of the early Canal Zone covers and saved many of the errors and varieties. This letter is dated Jan. 25, 1911 and is merely addressed "Dear Sir."

The information may have reached you from another source but if not will say that I was at the Panama Post Office today and was advised by the Cashier that the 2 c and 1c and possibly another value of the new issue will be placed on sale in February, exact date not yet given. I was also permitted to see a specimen of the new stamps mentioned, the 1c is of course identical with the Zone 1c excepting for surcharge but the 2c is a departure from the rest of the issue, it being of the 'Map' design and identical with the new Zone 10 cts on 13c Panama recently issued and of an orange color.

At the time these new stamps are placed on sale Panama Republic will also place on sale another innovation in the shape of a stamp book somewhat on the order of those current in the States only that the Panama book will have

several denominations incorporated, viz., 6 ten-cent, 6 five-cent, 18 two and one-half cent, 6 one-cent and 12 one-half cent, six stamps to a leaf and representing a face value of \$1.47, the book selling for \$1.50. It was in one of these books that I inspected the new stamps but upon trying to obtain one was informed that they would not be issued until the office was ready to supply the new stamps in sheet form. It might be worthy of note that the stamps in book form are ungummed and anyone who has handled stamps from the Isthmus will readily understand the reason, also the covers of the books and interleaves carry the advertisements of Panama business firms for which I understand they pay \$6.00 per annum.

David Zemer, who sent the letter to *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, adds:

The Panama booklet panes referred to in this letter are listed as: 2¢, Scott No. 195a; 1¢, No. 197b; 2¢, No. 198a; 22¢, No. 199a; 5¢, No. 200a; 10¢, No. 201a. Scott Nos. 197b, 198a, and 200a are catalogued at \$80 for each booklet pane, while strangely the other three panes that were bound in the same booklet are unpriced. Note that the 2¢ stamp is not in this booklet.

*DeVoss obituary continued from page 15*

Philatelic Society in 1946, and served as International Secretary (1949-54) with such distinction that he received the first of two Luff Awards for outstanding service to the society in 1952. His second, for distinguished philatelic research on the Canal Zone, was awarded in 1958.

DeVoss was one of the organizers of Napex in 1949, the first national-level show in Washington, D.C. In the 1950s, he pioneered the use of color slides to illustrate stamps, receiving special permission from the U.S. Treasury Department to do so.

After retiring from the Army, he joined the APS staff as Assistant Executive Secretary (1961-63), and became Executive Secretary (1963-79) and Executive Director (1979-81).

Text for this article was derived primarily from material provided by Fred Baumann, Public Relations & Media Manager, American Philatelic Society



## Identifying Type III Overprints and Avoiding Misidentified Stamps

What follows are two articles that pertain to identifying type III overprints and spotting stamps incorrectly identified as the 2c type III, Scott No. 47. In one Tom Brougham gives a preview of his CZSG Handbook which should be in the hands of members later this year. It will provide the definitive work regarding type IIIs, including the detailed characteristics of the type III stamps and their different printings.

The other is a continuation of the series on identifying Canal Zone stamps and detection of fakes, this time pertaining to stamps misidentified as Scott No. 47.

They are presented together because they reinforce each other and provide the reader with a composite picture of these issues, which are among the scarcer Canal Zone stamps.

### Type III Handbook in the Works by Tom Brougham

The published literature on Canal Zone Type III overprint issues has lagged far behind the accumulated knowledge of collectors of this area. While I had planned to address this gap through an article for the *CZP*, as I worked on it the project grew. I began making enlarged scans of stamps just to help me measure precisely. The result was so good at removing ambiguity and making identification much more objective that it pushed the work to a bigger scale. Big color illustrations are essential to communicate the new results.

I have recently submitted a 44-page, detailed and much-illustrated study covering all eight Type III issues to the Publications Committee for consideration as a CZSG handbook. Many collectors forget that J10 and J11 are Type III and that 46 and 48 each had two printings.

Previous literature on Type III has tended toward a "one-description-fits-all" approach. That has limited its usefulness to collectors. Type III issues were printed on six separate occasions between December 1915 and March 1924 using at least five, and more probably seven, different overprint plate settings. The new handbook will illustrate the differences between the various Type III overprints and make it possible to objectively distinguish between the two printings of both 46 and 48.

While only one type of physical font was used to produce all Type III issues, other factors contributed to

*continued on page 21*

### Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

#### Stamps Misidentified as Scott No. 47

This article continues the discussion in *CZP* 164 concerning possible fakes and incorrectly identified stamps being offered, most commonly on eBay. Despite the points raised here about problem certificates, which though rare do occur, a main emphasis is the importance of getting certificates for valuable items, as a general practice, or particularly when there is doubt in your mind. This is commonly done by having the stamp expertized, which means that it is submitted to an organization that seeks opinions from known experts in that field of philately. If the opinion is favorable, a certificate is issued, and in addition to reassuring the current owner, it can also accompany the stamp if it is subsequently sold.

For Canal Zone items, the PSE (Professional Stamp Experts) and the APES (American Philatelic Expertization Service) generally have been reliable places to send material for expertization, because their practice is to send the items out to known experts in that specific area of philately. The Philatelic Foundation (PF) is another option with a very strong reputation in some areas, but is not always the best choice for unusual Canal Zone material because their system has not involved sending it out to known experts. In fact, who has seen the stamp and given an opinion

*continued on page 21*

## Secretary's Report John C. Smith 408 Redwood Ln. Schaumburg, IL 60193

As of May 7, 2008, our membership stands at 692 members, including 71 hold-outs. As always, we will do our best to retrieve them by sending out at least two reminder notices. Thank you all for your valued membership.

### New Members

- 2581 Herbert A. Hutchinson,  
Westlake Village, CA  
2582 Stuart M. Sheiman,  
Bridgeport, CT

### Address Changes

- 0192 Armand E. Johanson, Jr.,  
Bloomington, MN  
0211 E. Paul Bender,  
Woodside, NY  
0338 Anita S. Roeckel,  
Colorado Springs, CO  
0625 Melvin E. Adams,  
Oreland, PA  
1795 F. Edward Mouton,  
Shreveport, LA  
1865 Peggy A. Hansen,  
Issaquah, WA  
2016 Stephen A. Inklebarger,  
Chehalis, WA

### Reinstated Members

- 2333 Robert Cassibry,  
Daphne, AL

### Resigned Members

- 1884 George Cosentini

### Deceased Members

- 0003 Col. James T. DeVoss

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*President's report continued from page 13*

digitizing all of the HBNC collection and he has accepted their offer to write the narratives. When he is finished, it will provide valuable background information for all Canal Zone collectors interested in this early series.

The NPM welcomes volunteers who wish to do research on their material. For more information contact Christine at the museum, or email her at hillc@si.edu.



the appearance of the resulting overprints. Variation in the quality and quantity of ink, press pressure, and word and letter placement have produced overprints looking very different from each other. For example the overprint on a 48 2nd printing is very heavy and blurry while the overprint on a 47 is crisp, clean and light.

The handbook will also greatly expand on many positional varieties that distinguish the different overprint plates. Included also are numerous illustrations of uses on covers and discussion of their relative availability.

Although the study is essentially complete and ready for publication, I hope to fold in some more information on covers at the last minute. The census that I have been conducting via the CZSG website has gathered reports of only 150 Type III covers. Even so, this group of covers does begin to document the relative scarcity of these issues on cover and their normal periods of use. Below is a summary of the census so far. To see in detail what has been reported so far, go to the CZSG website at [www.czsg.org](http://www.czsg.org)

46 1st Printing 1¢ green Balboa

Full covers reported: 55

Apparent normal use date range:

December 14, 1915 to March 29, 1916

48 1st Printing 5¢ deep blue Arosemena

Full covers reported: 5

Apparent normal use date range: December 14, 1915 to June 4, 1916

J10 2¢ olive brown Columbus

Full covers reported: 6

Apparent normal use date range: August 10, 1920 to December 6, 1920

J11 4¢ olive brown Capitol

Full covers reported: 5

Apparent normal use date range: August 10, 1920 to May 16, 1923

48 2nd Printing 5¢ deep blue Arosemena

Full covers reported: 6

Apparent normal use date range: February 24, 1920 to May 21, 1920

47 2¢ orange vermilion Cordoba

Full covers reported: 22

Apparent normal use date range: September 27, 1920 to December 20, 1920

46 2nd Printing 1¢ light green Balboa

Full covers reported: 18

Apparent normal use date range: March 28, 1921 to October 3, 1921

67 1¢ green Vallarino

Full covers reported: 11

Apparent normal use date range: April 2, 1924 to May 31, 1924

(To come up with the "normal use date range" I have lopped off a few very late uses and obvious philatelic uses.)

If you have any Type III covers or dated fragments not yet recorded, I would be grateful to receive information about them. For each cover, postcard or wrapper, I hope to get 1) postmark date, 2) CZ post office name, 3) destination town, state and/or country, 4) whether it is on

postcard, on envelope or on piece, and 5) number of stamps. Information can be mailed to me at PO Box 1284 Berkeley, CA 94707 or sent to me via the CZSG website mailbox at [tom@canalzonestudygroup.com](mailto:tom@canalzonestudygroup.com).

Finally, for those who want immediate help with finding Scott 46, 47 and 48 among the more common Type Is in dealers' stocks, here are four rules of thumb that can be applied quickly at bourses and that can put you into competition with experts.

Rule One, do not worry about fakes. I've seen lots of Scott 32 and 33 misidentified as Type IIIs, some even with certificates. But I've never yet seen an example of an actual faked Type III overprint.

Rule Two, measure the space between the overprint words first. Type IIIs are always 9.2 mm. It is easier to do a quick measurement first than it is to ponder over the shape of letters on every stamp. If you do not have a glass with a millimeter gauge, you would need a very experienced eye to be in the race to find Type IIIs.

Rule Three, if it measures 9.2 mm and it is either a 1-cent or a 5-cent, buy it if it is priced as a Type I. The worst that can happen is that you have stumbled upon a very rare spacing variety of the 5-cent. You should be so lucky. While it does not have as great a catalog value, it is many times scarcer than a 48.

Rule Four, if it measures 9.2 mm and it is a 2-cent, look for a really thin and light overprint. There are lots of 32s that measure 9.2 mm. If the 'weight' of the overprint looks approximately like many other CZ overprints, if there is any rounding of the edges of letters, it almost certainly is not a 47. The overprint on most 47s stands out distinctly because the overprint is very light, very thin and very crisp. I don't find very many 47s today. Because they jump out, they have mostly been found already.

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*fake overprints continued from page 20*

on the authenticity is part of the concern raised for the two items described below. As I said at the end of the previous article, "the lesson here is not to accept as genuine a stamp solely because it offers as proof, statements by the seller regarding expertization or certificates, if the person or organization providing the opinion is not identified and recognized as an authority." I will have something to say about guarantee marks in a future issue.

The subject of this article is to discuss an exception to the rule that certificates should reassure you the stamp is genuine and properly identified. That is because certificates can be wrong, though fortunately rarely, for those from PSE, PF, and APES. There have been, relatively recently, two items with certificates offered on eBay as Scott No. 47 that were not 47s, but rather the much more common Scott No. 32.

As Tom Brougham indicates in his accompanying article, examples of fake type III overprints are not known; the problem is not fakes, but misidentification. Focusing on the two cent stamps (Scott No. 32 - type I overprint; no. 39 - type II overprint; no. 47 - type III overprint; no. 53 - type IV overprint; and No. 56 - type V overprint), all of which are overprinted on the same underlying Panamanian

*continued on page 22*



stamp, though with some variation such as in color. The orange shade that is overprinted to produce no. 47 is not found with the type I, II, IV, or V overprints. The only problem might be that orange ink is the most likely color to be affected by oxidation which can turn them somewhat brownish to distinctly brownish. But if the color is the right orange, there is little doubt that the example is a no. 47. Of all the scarcer Canal Zone stamps, it is the easiest to get right!

Of course, going on here about color is of little use to the reader of a publication that is in black and white. While we hope to go to color in the CZP and Study Group Handbooks shortly, for now we will rely on other characteristics to identify a good no. 47, and to say why the two eBay stamps could be spotted as misidentified, even in black and white, though the orange color was clearly too red to be a possible no. 47.

Tom has given his set of criteria for a good no. 47; I have slightly different ones given here. To be a 47, the overprint 1) must measure 9.2 mm between the bottom of the letters in CANAL and the top of the letters in ZONE (a perf. Gauge is sufficient as you are trying to tell if it is a bit more than 9 mm, and not 8 ½ mm which is the normal spacing on no. 32); 2) must have a serif on the bottom right of the C in CANAL – otherwise it is likely a no. 39 even with a 9.2 mm spacing; 3) usually is not well centered on the stamp; 4) usually is lightly inked such that you can see through to the design in spots; and 5) should have the bottom parts of the letters L, Z, and E look extended to the right with sharp angles where the serif attaches.

The two offending stamps are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, with an example from eBay of a good No. 47 in Fig. 2. The stamp in Fig.1 was advertised as having a PF certificate stating it is a No. 47. It is just wrong, and I do not know how it wound up being wrong. My best guess is

**Fig.1**  
Misidentified as  
No. 47 with PF  
certificate



**Fig.2**  
Genuine Used  
No. 47



**Fig.3**  
Misidentified as  
No. 47 with PSE  
certificate



that the people who looked at it just did not know enough to tell the difference. The other one, illustrated in Fig. 3, came with a PSE certificate, and has a bit of a story attached. The item appeared not just once, but twice on eBay. When the stamp appeared on eBay the first time, it was spotted as incorrectly identified by many eBay surfers who are CZSG members, and the process to have it delisted was initiated, resulting in the item being removed from sale. But it evidently sold privately, and the subsequent buyer put it up for sale again on eBay. Again the hue and cry of experienced Canal Zone stamp spotters went up, and two who have in the past or were then serving as PSE's experts for Canal Zone pressed to find out how this could have happened. And this is what seems to have transpired.

The item came into PSE for expertization, identified by the optimistic owner as a possible 47. Probably because the owner was looking for a quick turn around, and because the PSE felt it had sufficient expertise in house, the stamp was not sent out to the experts on their panel. When questioned about it, they were asked if Albert Chang, who is a leading Canal Zone stamp expert, had seen it, and they said he had. That made it all the more baffling, because Mr. Chang would not have gotten it wrong. I happened to see Albert not too long after that, and asked him, and he knew the situation well, and was as distressed as we were. He had seen it, but had marked it as misidentified, and not a 47 but a 32. But due to a clerical error, when the certificate for the stamp was prepared, it did not pick up on the misidentification and instead listed it as a 47 as the owner had suggested. Because the knowledgeable stamps person who normally checked the certificates before the stamp is returned was not available, this clerical error was not caught, and the bad certificate was returned with the stamp to the submitter. After that, CZSG members tried to track the facts down and get the stamp off the market.

Just so one does not wind up thinking any other of the expertization services is free from human error, recently a stamp identified as Scott No. 12d, 5c with double PANAMA overprint appeared on eBay with an APES certificate circa 1983. Trouble was, the item was not a 12d which must have the PANAMA overprints double on BOTH the left and the right. Instead it had the double on only one side, indicating it is the much more common shifted overprint variety. Such varieties, which are collectable but not considered major errors, have a normal set of PANAMA at the left and right, plus the additional PANAMA from the adjacent stamp on either the left or the right. I will include a bit more about this item in a future issue, either when we find out more about how this mistaken certificate might have occurred, or when shifted overprints are discussed.



## Campbell Gerkee Pictures

### U1 – Postal Envelope

By Irwin J. Gibbs, Postal Stationery Editor

For many years a 1¢ Mint Canal Zone Envelope (U1) addressed to Campbell Gerkee Pictures, Hotel Tivoli, Ancon C.Z. has showed up in auctions and on dealer lists. An example is shown in Fig. 1. All of them have been mint with a reply number. None of the numbers known are over 500. No used copies have ever shown up.

Fig. 1



We do know some interesting things about Rose Campbell Gerkee. She was a prominent professional artist with a studio at the Tivoli Hotel.

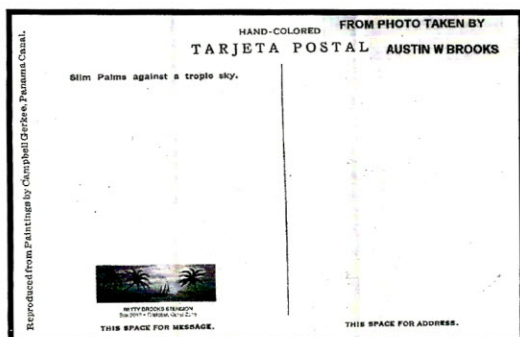
Her work as a miniaturist specializing in watercolors of landscapes, and still life studies, mostly of Panama and Canal Zone subjects, was well known and exhibited in the Isthmus.

Many of Rose Gerkee's paintings were made into picture postcards with more than 25 being published. An example is shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Fig. 2



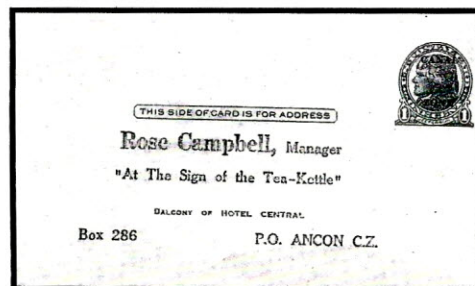
Fig. 3



She was also a very prolific author with many articles published in the *Panama Times*.

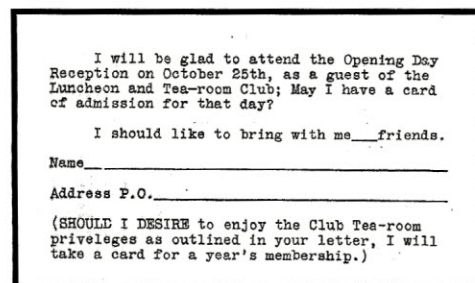
A related item is shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The return UX7 (UPSS S14) postal card illustrated was first issued on July 1, 1924. It evidently accompanied a letter about Club Tea Room privileges. It is addressed to Rose Campbell as manager of the "At the Sign of the Tea Kettle" on the balcony of the Hotel Central.

Fig. 4



The *Panama Times* advertized a May 10, 1925 auction of "The entire contents of her studio including tropical landscapes, palm tree subjects, charcoal sketches, portraits, etc." Perhaps the U1 envelope was the method of submitting bids.

Fig. 5



## Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

Here is a very simple Auctions column covering the Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2008 quarter. The period was very slow at a time of year when we would normally have expected at least one good auction. Also, the number of 'DNS' (Did Not Sell) lots was higher than usual.

Shown below are a few not-so-interesting results. The first dollar amount is hammer plus commission, the latter amount is the value from the 2008 *Scott Specialized Catalogue* and is given in parentheses.

- 3, used, barely F \$144 (\$250) Rumsey
- 4-8 on cover La Boca 12/9/04 to Panama, stamps VG-F, 5c and 10c w/ se, cover VF \$546 (\$n/a) R.A. Siegel
- 7, OG, H, VF+ \$173 (\$175) R.A. Siegel
- 67, OG, H, barely F \$144 (\$500) Rumsey
- CZSG 69.A-69.G, the Unissued "Arms" set, OG, H to HR, 24 cent with a hinge thin o/w F-VF \$2300 (\$2450) Regency Superior
- 94, OG, NH, XF with PSE cert. graded XF90 \$321 (\$350) R.A. Siegel
- 97b, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, F \$345 (\$525) Regency Superior
- O8, OG, NH, VF, CTO as always \$546 (\$650) Rumsey

The names and addresses of the few auction houses which offered these lots are:

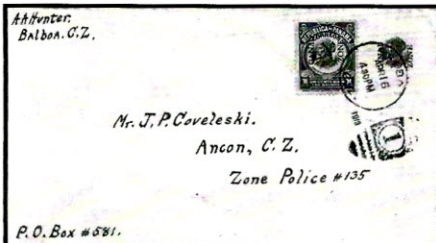
Regency Superior • PO Box 8277 • St. Louis, MO 63156

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